

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1074

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: QUEEN DECIDES TO NAME CO-  
INFORMATEURS

REF: THE HAGUE 1624

1. SUMMARY: QUEEN JULIANA NAMED KVP MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ARP  
SENATOR PROFESSOR ALAEDA CO- INFORMATEURS LATE APRIL 10. THEIR  
MANDATE IS TO " INVESTIGATE IN WHICH WAY IN SHOREST POSSIBLE  
TIME CABINET CAN BE FORMED WHICH WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT  
IN THE PARLIAMENT." THEIR APPOINTMENT IS SEEN AS FINAL EFFORT  
TO SAVE BURGER FORMATION AND ALLOW DEN UYL BECOME PM BUT LEFT  
WING CONFESSONAL DUO' S CHANCES OF SUCCESS REATED LESS THAN  
EVEN. SHOULD THEY FAIL, MOST PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVE IS  
RESTORED FOUR OR FIVE PARTY COALITION INCLUDING LIBERALS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. CABINET OF QUEEN ANNOUNCED AT 6:00 P. M . APRIL 10, QUEEN HAD  
APPOINTED KVP MINISTER OF JUSTICE VAN AGT AND ARP FIRST CHAMBER  
MEMBER PROFESSOR ALBEDA AS CO- INFORMATEURS. THEIR MANDATE IS,  
" IN VIEW OF THE EXISTING SITUATION, TO INVESTIGATE IN WHICH WAY,  
IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME A CABINET CAN BE FORMED, WHICH CAN  
BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN THE SECOND CHAMBER."  
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VAN AGT IS ON LEFT WING OF KVP AND HAD BEEN ASKED BY BURGER TO CONTINUE IN A DEN UYL CABINET. HE REFUSED TO SERVE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESEN. PROFESSOR ALBEDA ( FORMER LEADER GRANTEE), ON LEFT WING OF THE ARP, IS PROFESSOR AT ROTT-ERDAM UNIVERSITY AND ONE OF NETHERLANDS' MOST SUCCESSFUL LABOR MEDIATORS. BOTH VAN AGT AND ALBEDA ARE PARTISANS OF CONFESSIONAL-LABOR COOPERATION. THE CO- INFORMATEURS SAID THEIR FIRST GOAL IS TO DISCOVER WHY THE BURGER EFFORT FAILED. THEIR FIRST APPOINTMENT WILL BE WITH LABOR FLOOR LEADER DEN UYL.

3. LEFT WING REACTION TO APPOINTMENT OF CONFESSIONAL DUO WAS POSITIVE. DEN UYL VIEWED EFFORT AS CHANCE TO " SAVE" BRUGER FORMATION. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESEN REGRETTED QUEEN FOUND IT NECESSARY TO APPOINT " INFORMATEURS" RATHER THAN " FORMAT-EURS" ALTHOUGH HIS ARP COUNTERPART AANTJES FOUND THE DUO AN " OUTSTANDING COMBINATION." WIEGEL OF LIBERALS AND TILANUS OF CHU, BOTH PARTISANS OF RESTORED FIVE PARTY COALITION, REGRETTED MORE TIME WOULD BE WASTED IN WHAT THEY CONSIDERED A LOST CAUSE.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE CO- INFORMATEURS CAME AFTER QUEEN HAD COMPLETED SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADERS AND MINISTER OF STATE APRIL 9. LEFT WING ( LABOR, D 66 AND RADICALS) URGED HER APPOINT LABOR FORMATEUR WHO COULD COMPLETE WORK OF BURGER EVEN IF THIS MEANT LEFT WING MINORITY GOVT. " OLD FIVE" ( KVP, ARP, CHU, DS 70 AND LIBERALS) PROPOSED KVP FORMATEUR. ANDRIESEN' S ( KVP) AND ANNTJES' ( ARP) VARIATION ON THIS THEME WAS TO SUGGEST CO - FORMATEUR. AFTER SESSION WITH FLOOR LEADERS, HM SAW THREE OF SEVEN MINISTERS OF STATE ( ELDER STATESMEN WHO ADVISE CROWN): PROFESSOR BEEL, KVP, RECENTLY REITRED VP OF COUNCIL OF STATE; MARGA KLOMPE, KVP, FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE; AND PROFESSOR DONNER, ARP, 84- YEAR OLD FORMER PRESIDENT OF DUTCH SUPREME COURT. THIS IS FIRST TIME IN RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, HM HAS SEEN SO MANY MINISTERS OF STATE IN CONNECTION WITH FORMATION. EVENING APRIL 9 QUEEN RECEIVED VAN AGT FOR TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS. THEY WERE LATER JOINED BY DR. DE POUS ( CHU), PRESIDENT OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL. THIS GAVE RISE TO REPORTS DE POUS WOULD SERVE AS CO- FORMATEUR.

5. COMMENT: QUEEN' S APPOINTMENT OF LEFT WING CONFESSIONAL DUO AS CO- INFORMATEURS IS VIEWED AS FINAL EFFORT TO SAVE BURGER FORMATION. THEORY IS THAT LEFT WING CATHOLIC LIKE VAN AGT, ASS-ISTED BY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS SOCIO- ECONOMIC SCENE LIKE ALBEDA, CAN

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GAIN CONFIDENCE OF LEFT WING AND FINISH BURGER EFFORT BUT WITH CONSIDERABLY BETTER TERMS FOR CONFESSIONALS. CRUCIAL QUESTION IS WHEHTER DEN UYL WILL NOW TAKE A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION VIS- A- VIS CONFESSIONALS AND MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONALS EVEN IF THIS MEANS STIRRING UP HIS EXTREME LEFT WING. MANY ARE BETTING HE WILL NOT, CANNOT AND HAS NOT THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM TO TRY. THUS KVP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER WESTERTERP TOLD DCM APRIL 9 APPOINTMENT OF VAN AGT WOULD BE SOP TO LEFT WING CATHOLICS. WESTERTERP SAID ANDRIESSEN HAD BEEN EVEN WILLING TO RECOMMEND MISS KLOMPE AS FORMATEUR BUT SHE MADE CLEAR SHE WOULD REFUSE IF ASKED. SPEAKING ON TV APRIL 8, ANDRIESSEN SAID THERE NO REASON WHY DEN UYL COULD NOT END UP PM IN CABINET PUT TOGETHER BY CONFESSIONAL FORMATEUR. THERE IS GOOD REASON TO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT DUO VAN AGT- ALBEDA CAN ACCOMPLISH WHAT BURGER COULD NOT. KVP FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST MOOMERSTEEG, WHO IS IN LEFT WING OF HIS PARTY, TOLD EMBOFFS EVENING APRIL 10 HE DID NOT GIVE NEW EFFORT MUCH CHANCE OF SUCCESS. MOMMERSTEEG SAID PROBLEM WAS DEN UYL' S UNYIELDING STANCE AND HIS FAILURE AS PARTY LEADER TO CONVINCE CADRE AND RANK AND FILE CONCESSIONS HAD TO BE MADE. MOMMERSTEEG CLAIMED THAT IF CURRENT EFFORT FAILS, ONLY POSSIBILITY IS FOUR OR FIVE PARTY COALITION WITH LIBERALS. HE SAID NO ONE WANTS NEW ELECTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WESTERTERP ALSO TOLD DCM FONMIN SCHMELZER, WHO UP TILL NOW DECLINED ANY ROLE IN FORMATION, RECENTLY AGREED THAT SHOULD CURRENT EFFORT NOT SUCCEED HE ( SCHMELZER) WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER THE LISTS, PRESUMABLY TO RECONSTITUTE THE OLD FIVE OR PRESENT FOUR PARTY COALITION AND QUITE POSSIBLY WITH HIMSELF AS PM. MIDDENDORF

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